

RURAL DISTRICT
of
CALNE and CHIPPENHAM

THE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the


M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
and
S E N I O R S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R
for the
YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER

- 1 9 5 3 -

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	<u>Page No.</u>
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY ETC.	1
INTRODUCTORY LETTER	2
GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS	3
DEATHS	4
INFANT MORTALITY	5
PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE	6
INFECTIOUS DISEASE -DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO AGE	7
TUBERCULOSIS	8
LEGISLATION	9 10
LEPROSY	10
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 & NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.	10
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION	10
VACCINATION	10
SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL	11
ditto	12
ditto	13
WATER SUPPLIES	14
ditto	15
ditto	16
ditto	17
ditto	18
REPORT OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR	19

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29087909>

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural District of Malmesbury.

(b) SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

+ H.J. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.l., M.S.I.A.

also Surveyor to the Council.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS.

+ S.H. Murray, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

+ M.A. Gregory, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.l., M.S.I.A.

+ Qualifications held by these officers:-

Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Meat & Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings & Public Works of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Committees of the Council which are concerned with matters of Public Health.

Finance, Staff & General Purposes Committee
Public Health Committee
Housing Committee.

These Committees are held every four weeks throughout the year and deal with all matters appertaining to public health and housing.

TO:- The Chairman & Members,
Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1953.

The Birth Rate for the district shows a slight increase compared with the rate for the previous year, whilst the death rate has declined; a very satisfactory state of affairs.

The principle causes of death were Heart Disease and the various forms of Cancer. It is of interest to note that twenty two males died from Coronary Disease or Angina. Coronary Disease appears to figure more prominently as a cause of death than in previous years.

There was an outbreak of measles during the early part of the year and some increase in the incidence of Poliomyelitis, but apart from this, outbreaks of communicable disease were few. The demand for beds in Isolation Hospitals for infectious cases is steadily diminishing, making this type of hospital available for the treatment and nursing of other forms of illness. This general freedom from infectious disease, however, requires constant vigilance and is in measure due to the activities of Local Authorities and Health Officers in the past, i.e. previous preventive measures in the public health field are now paying a dividend.

There was only one case of food poisoning notified during the year; the patient was infected outside the Rural District. This freedom from infection could be maintained provided adequate personal hygiene was practised by all, both in the home and at places of employment. Education in the school of this rudimentary principle would diminish the need for the propaganda which is at present necessary.

The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis shows little change. Although deaths from tuberculosis are diminishing due to new methods of treatment, the control of this disease and its prevention still require constant attention.

The increase in the expectation of life gives an opportunity for the study of the causes of Cancer and Diseases of the Circulation, as these belong, as a rule to the final decades. If the Local Authority is to play any part in the study of the causes of disease, other than infectious disease, information will be required on the incidence of the forms of illness and disability necessitating the attention of a general practitioner or admission to a hospital.

Birth & Death Rates, the causes of death and the incidence of infectious disease constitute the only statistical information received at present with the exception of the weekly and quarterly numerical returns from the Registrar General in respect of the country as a whole.

Concerning immunisation, more children received primary immunisation against Diphtheria than in 1952, but although there was a slight increase in the number of children successfully vaccinated against Smallpox, an insufficient number of children are protected in the Rural District.

I am grateful to Mr. Taylor and the staff of the Rural District for their help in compiling this Report.

I am,
Your Obedient Servant,
C.L. BROOMHEAD.

E R R A T U M

Page 3 "No. of inhabited houses etc" delete "7,150" and
insert "7,458"

Page 6 After table of Infectious Diseases add the
following :-

"a = numbers originally notified"

"b = Final numbers after correction"

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	85, 388
Population	35, 320
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1953 according to the Rate Book)	7, 150
Rateable Value	£201,116
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£801.

VITAL STATISTICS.LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	244	255	499
Illegitimate	15	13	28
Total Live Births	259	268	527
Crude Birth Rate for the District.	14.9 per 1000 of the population.		
Adjusted Birth Rate for the District	17.8 per 1000 of the population.		
Birth Rate for England & Wales	15.5 per 1000 of the population.		

The population figures includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Birth Rate is based on this population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Birth Rate for the area is multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor, (i.e. 1.20). The Birth Rates shown above represent a minimal increase over the figures for 1952 which were as follows:-

Crude Birth Rate	14.7
Adjusted Birth Rate	17.6
Rate for England & Wales	15.3

STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	7	11
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total Still Births	4	7	11
Rate per 1000 of the population	0.31		
Comparative Rate per 1000 of the population for England & Wales	0.35		

During 1952 six still births were recorded, representing a rate of 0.16 per 1000 of the population.

DEATHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	127	92	219
Crude Death Rate for the District.			6.2 per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted Death Rate for the District			7.8 per 1000 of the population.
Death Rate for England & Wales			11.4 per 1000 of the population.

The population figures includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Death Rate is based on this population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Death Rate for the area is multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor (ie 1.27). Although the Death Rate for England & Wales for 1953 shows a minimal increase over the figure for 1952 which was 11.3 per 1000 of the population, the Crude and Adjusted Death Rates for the District this year are lower than the previous year, when they were 7.8 and 9.9 per 1000 of the population respectively.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	1	4
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	1	-	1
Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	7	1	8
Malignant neoplasm breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms	13	8	21
Leukaemia, alcucaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	14	23
Coronary disease angina	22	7	29
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2
Other heart disease	18	20	38
Other circulatory disease	8	10	18
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	10	2	12
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	-	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	4
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	10	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	9	1	10
All Other Accidents	6	2	8
Suicide	-	3	3
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL: -	127	92	219

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

TABLE "A"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	5	6	11
Illegitimate	1	1	2
TOTAL:-	6	7	13

Infant Mortality Rate

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age
per 1,000 live births24.6

Rate for England & Wales26.8

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-

TABLE "B"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	1	1	2
TOTAL:-	5	5	10

NOTE:- The figures given in Table "B" are included in Table "A"

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1953 as compared with the years 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952.

DISEASE	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	62	62	155	155	145	145	49	49	21	21
Whooping Cough	46	46	216	216	149	149	31	31	71	71
Diphtheria	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	230	230	370	370	570	570	102	102	659	659
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	6	6	5	4	1	1	4	4
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	10	7	3	-	10	7	2	1	25	15
Dysentery	-	-	8	5	29	29	42	42	3	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	3	3	7	6	1	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Para Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	2	2	5	5	2	2	2	2	1	1
Pneumonia	20	20	20	20	12	12	9	9	2	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Ac. Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	377	368	788	779	930	925	247	243	788	778

The epidemic of Measles which occurred during the first quarter of the year, reached its peak in March and faded out towards the middle of May. The majority of the cases were concentrated in the Corsham area.

Although 29 cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified, the disease was only finally confirmed in nineteen patients; four of whom developed some degree of paralysis, whilst the balance of 15 were classified as suffering from the non-paralytic form of poliomyelitis.

It should be noted that the non-paralytic form of poliomyelitis was unrecognised until 1949 and only became notifiable in 1950. Increased awareness by both the public and the medical profession has contributed to the above apparent increase in the number of notifications.

Only one case of Food Poisoning was notified. Investigation established that the patient became infected outside the District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Distribution according to age
Notifications received during 1953 - Corrected Figures.

<u>DISEASE</u>	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65+	Age Unknown	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	3	16	1	-	-	-	1	21
Whooping Cough	6	41	24	-	-	-	-	-	71
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	10	375	252	2	7	-	1	12	659
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	4
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	5	3	2	5	-	-	-	15
Dysentery	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Para-Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac.Encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	16	427	298	5	13	3	1	15	778

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year show a slight increase as compared with the numbers notified during 1952.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	14	7	21
1949	11	10	21
1950	30	2	32
1951	26	7	33
1952	23	5	28
1953	24	8	32

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY
DURING 1953 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESP.		NON-RESP.		RESP.		NON-RESP.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1			1					
5	2	2	1	1				
15	5	2	2	1				
25	4	3		2	2			
35	2	-						
45	2	1						
55	1				1			
65 upwards.	-				1	2		
TOTAL:-	16	8	4	4	4	2	-	-

It will be appreciated that the above figures do not represent the total number of individuals suffering from tuberculosis in the Rural District. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous individuals either move into the Rural District or move out. Resident in the Rural District at the end of 1953 were, according to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified cases:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	76	50	120
Non-Pulmonary	23	29	52
Total:-	99	79	172

A Mobile X-Ray Unit operated in the Rural District during October. Of a total of 1,452 examinations, 9 persons were found to be suffering from tuberculous conditions, and a further 10 individuals were shown to be suffering from disease other than tuberculosis. It is hoped to arrange for a further visit of the Unit during the forthcoming year.

During the year under review the following legislation relating to public health came into operation.

1. The Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1953.

These regulations which came into force on the 1st. April supercede the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regns. 1927 and the Infectious Diseases (London) Regulations, 1927. The general substance and form of the new regulations are similar to the old, in that they require notification of malaria, dysentery, acute primary pneumonia and acute influenzal pneumonia, but in addition, Local Authorities are now empowered to take action against the risk of food poisoning in cases of typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever and other salmonella infections, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning. The regulations provide for action to be taken not only with regard to a person suffering from the disease, but also a person shown to be a carrier of the disease, thus such persons may not only be prevented from continuing to work in an occupation connected with food or drink, but also from entering such an occupation. A copy of the regulations were sent to all medical practitioners practising in the district.

2. The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1953.

These regulations came into force on the 20th. December, 1953 and require that as from the 1st. October, 1954 containers of pasteurised milk must be provided with over-lapping caps, and permits the sterilisation of milk in cans or other suitable containers as well as in bottles.

3. The Milk & Dairies (Amendment) Regulations, 1953.

These amendment regulations which came into force on the 27th. December, 1953 exclude from the registration requirements of the principal regulations, persons who sell cream in the hermetically sealed containers in which it is delivered to the premises and who are not otherwise distributors of milk.

4. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

This Act, which came into force on the 14th. July, 1953 provides, inter alia, for the making of Closing Orders in respect of certain buildings hitherto required to be demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 and also provides for the revocation of a Demolition Order and the making of a Closing Order on the property in lieu thereof.

In addition to the new Public Health Legislation laid before Parliament during the year, various Circulars, Memoranda and Orders have been issued by the Ministries of Health & Food on matters pertaining to health covered by the existing Public Health Acts.

Impending Legislation which may possibly come into force during 1954 include a new Food & Drugs Act, Slaughterhouse Act and a Housing Act.

During the preparation of this report the following Circulars and Memorandum have been received.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

A Circular issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government stresses that Local Authorities should now take up as a matter of urgency, the campaign of Slum Clearance which the War interrupted. This is a matter which will require careful thought and planning during the forthcoming year.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

A Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health on the prevention of this disease, mentions, inter alia, that the rapid decline in the death rate from tuberculosis in recent years has not been accompanied by a corresponding decline in notifications, and that this indicates a need for intensifying various preventive measures.

Under existing legislation, the County Council, the District Council and the Regional Hospital Board are collectively responsible for the treatment and after-care of the tuberculous patient. The prevention of this disease also rests with this "tripartite" body; the main function of the District Council being to ensure that the tuberculous patient and his family are adequately housed.

The Public Health (Leprosy) Regns. 1951.

These regulations require that a practitioner who becomes aware of a case of Leprosy in his practice should notify the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health direct.

An advanced case of Leprosy was however brought to my notice by the practitioner in charge and arrangements were made for the patients segregation and adequate treatment. Contacts of such cases are kept under constant surveillance by the Ministry of Health Consultant.

National Assistance Act, 1948 and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

The Amendment Act of 1951 gives Local Authorities further powers to enable them to act expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. It is considered preferable that the elderly should remain in their own homes if at all possible, and before the provisions of the above Acts are implemented, every enquiry is made and assistance offered through the Home Help Service Scheme.

It was necessary on one occasion only to use the above legislation during the year. The patient was an elderly man, living alone and suffering from heart disease and pneumonia who died two months after admission to hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following children received primary immunisations during 1953.

<u>Under 1 yr.</u>	<u>Ages 1 - 4</u>	<u>Ages 5 - 14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
80	134	111	325

Total immunised child population as at 31.12.53.

<u>Ages 0-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1138	3727	4865

Vaccination.

The following children were vaccinated during 1953.

<u>Under 1 yr.</u>	<u>Ages 1 - 4</u>	<u>Ages 5 - 14</u>	<u>Ages 15 & over</u>
171	58	19	25

TOTAL 273

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

BIDDESTONE.

11

A combined sewer and surface water drain exists in this parish, a part being laid with pipes, whilst another section comprises a stone drock. The sewer receives crude slop water drainage and the overflow of cesspools and septic tanks. The water course running through the village receives the outfall of the sewer and during the normal flow of this water course, complaints are non-existent, but as soon as the dry weather approaches, nuisances arise.

During the year approval was received from the Ministry authorising the commencement of work on a sewage scheme for this parish.

BOX.

The outfall discharges into lagoons at Mill Lane, from which the effluent overflows into a system of irrigation channels before reception in the Box Brook.

The effluent is diverted periodically to allow aeration cleansing etc. of the channels, while others are in use. The works are obsolete and do not conform in any respect with modern practise of sanitary engineering. Samples of effluent taken in the past have shown that it does not conform with accepted standards for discharge into streams.

Only the village proper is sewered, except for two local disposal installations. These are situated at the Bassetts and Middle Hill, where groups of houses drain into covered settlement tanks, with effluents discharging over filter beds of slag media. The Middle Hill Works deal with a weak sewage as compared with other works, owing to the large volume of storm water conveyed by the sewer.

A new sewerage scheme for this Parish is in course of preparation.

BREWHILL, CALNE WITHOUT, CHERHILL, CHIPPENHAM WITHOUT, CHRISTIAN MALFORD, COMPTON BASSETT, HEDDINGTON, HILMARTON, LANGLEY BURRELL WITHOUT, NETTLETON, AND NORTH WRAXALL.

There are no sewerage systems in these Parishes. The larger properties are dependent upon small drainage disposal installations while occupiers of the smaller dwellings have to be content with the conservancy system and disposal of waste water in the garden. In some cases, however, ditches or water courses are used for the conveyance of drainage, and this often results in the production of nuisances and pollution of water supplies.

CASTLE COMBE.

Combined sewers and surface water drains discharging into the stream comprises the sewerage system of the Parish. The major portion of the houses have slop-water drains connected thereto while the closet accommodation is of the conservancy system. A twice weekly emptying of pail closets is undertaken by the Council for the village.

The sewage scheme for the parish was almost completed during the year.

COLERNE.

The whole of the village is sewered and a modern disposal works serves both the village and the local aerodrome.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (CONTINUED)

CORSHAM.

12

There is a modern disposal works for the parish. This continues to function satisfactorily and no special difficulties have been experienced during the year. The parish is generally well serviced with sewers.

GRITTLETON.

There is no proper system of sewerage in this parish, although there are lengths of drains in the main street in the village proper and at Littleton Drew, which act as sewers and receive the drainage from those properties connected to them. In each case the outfall discharge into open water courses. This is not satisfactory and a sewerage scheme has been advocated for Littleton Drew where sanitary conditions are more acute. Also a scheme for the sewerage of the village of Grittleton has been prepared.

KINGTON LANGLEY.

Apart from a small sewer in the centre of the village which serves only a few properties, the Parish is not sewered. The sewer discharges into a cesspool on private land and overflows into a channel in a field for irrigation.

There are only one or two ditches into which overflows from drains and cesspools discharge, and these are cleansed periodically by the Council. A new sewerage scheme is required and preliminary work on its preparation has commenced.

KINGTON ST. MICHAEL.

This parish possesses two separate sewers and each has a different outfall. One discharges into a ditch running through grazing land at the lower end of the village, while the other discharges into a ditch adjoining the allotments in the upper part of the village. The sewage is received in both ditches in an untreated condition. Some preliminary work on a sewerage scheme for the village has been carried out.

LACOCK.

The main Sewage Disposal Works receive the sewage from the major portion of the parish. Part of the sewage is pumped whilst the rest is by gravitation. The works have functioned satisfactorily during the year.

There are subsidiary works at Bewley Lane. The Outfall empties into a settlement tank, from which the effluent overflows on to an aerating stair. The effluent is then received into a system of irrigating channels which are used alternatively. These Works continue to function satisfactorily and the irrigation land absorbs all the effluent.

PEWESHAM, STANTON, ST. QUINTON and SUTTON BINGER.

There are no proper systems of sewers existing in these four parishes. Each parish has lengths of pipes and ditches serving as sewers, but these are not efficient and require constant attention.

The ditches were originally surface water channels, which in the process of time, have slowly been converted into nothing less than sewers, conveying untreated sewage.

The closet accommodation in these parishes is mainly of the conservancy system.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (CONTINUED)

19

YATTON KEYNELL.

There are several lengths of old sewers in the Parish which discharge into ditches. The present system is incomplete and unsatisfactory.

CESSPOOL EMPTIER.

The Council's cesspool emptying vehicle undertakes the emptying of septic tanks on the Council's housing sites and also undertakes similar work for private owners. A charge is made for this service.

The vehicle is also used for collecting the contents of pail closets at Castle Combe.

WATER SUPPLIES.

I am indebted to Mr. Witham for the following information on water supplies.

14

The year under review has been marked by the continued growth of the Undertaking, so that at present some 78% of the population of the district has a public piped water supply. This figure is likely to be increased still further in the next few years with the completion of the Eastern Area Water Scheme.

CAPITAL WORKS.

Western Area Water Scheme.

This contract, involving some 17 miles of mains, was commenced in December, 1950 and completed in June last after many difficulties.

Six Water Main Extension.

This contract has also been completed during the year. The work involved some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of mains at Ashley, Goatacre, Long Dean and Avon.

Eastern Area Water Scheme.

Work on the 500,000 gallon reservoir at Bowden Hill commenced in May, 1953 and is substantially completed.

The contract for the 33 miles of mains was commenced in August last and by the end of the year under review about 35% have been completed. Unfortunately it has been found that the Chippenham Corporation, who are supplying water for this scheme, are unable to do so with their present pumping plant. A new pump is on order and as soon as this is installed the Bowden Hill reservoir can be tested and completed and a considerable mileage of mains put into commission. The main laying is proceeding satisfactorily and is slightly ahead of schedule.

Goodshill Pumping Station.

The installation of the two new borehole pumps was completed in March. Some difficulties in the distribution system have been discovered which have prevented this source being used so far to the extent originally expected. These are being overcome but there are signs that there may be substantially more water at this source than can be absorbed by the present distribution system. When more experience has been gained this autumn I hope to report further on the matter. It is, of course, in the interests of economy that this source should be utilised to the maximum extent possible.

Malmesbury Road Water Main.

A scheme has been approved and contract let for laying one mile of water main from the Plough Inn to Pretty Chimneys.

Colerne Housing Site.

An extension of the Martin's Croft housing site has necessitated laying a short length of new main and a diversion of the pumping main from Widdenham to Colerne village. This work has been completed.

Widdenham Water Supply.

A proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for augmenting the supply of water to Widdenham, and for providing increased storage

Widdenham Water Supply (continued)

capacity at Rudloe and at Upper Wraxall. This scheme involves laying a main from the Chippenham Borough's reservoir at Five Ways to Widdenham and the provision of Booster Pumps. A concrete reservoir is proposed at a site between Upper Wraxall and Marshfield and an additional high level tank at Rudloe. 12

The Air Ministry have agreed to contribute to the cost of this scheme in so far as it is designed to meet their future increased demands for water at Colerne Aerodrome and Rudloe Manor.

Air Ministry Housing Site Rudloe.

To meet the needs of the Air Ministry for housing purposes at Rudloe a further scheme has been submitted to the Ministry. Before this scheme can be carried out it is essential that the scheme described above be substantially completed.

Fishers Brook Extension.

The Council have agreed in principle to lay a water main from Low Bridge, Bremhill, to Fishers Brook. This main will be an extension of the Eastern Area Scheme now under construction.

SOURCES.

No changes in the sources of supply have taken place during the year.

The adequacy of the supply at Widdenham gave some cause for concern during the summer, but it was just possible to maintain adequate supplies without restrictions. The coming summer may necessitate some restrictions being imposed as the new proposals referred to above will not be available for at least a year.

There are some signs that the yield of the borehole at Nettleton is falling. The cause and extent of this is at present obscure and the matter is being kept under observation.

DISTRIBUTION.

Corrosion of spun and cast iron mains accounted for 8 bursts out of 20 repaired during the year. A careful watch is being kept on this problem and steps taken to prevent trouble from this source in all new works. In the case of existing mains the time will come when relaying of certain sections of mains is desirable. In my opinion that time has not yet come.

As the Seagry Booster Station is now a permanent part of the distribution system a duplicate pumping unit has been installed and the reliability of the station increased.

The laying of a new main from Box to Ashley has enabled Middle Hill, Ditteridge and parts of Ashley to be supplied by gravity from Rudloe instead of by means of boosting to Kingsdown and supplying from that reservoir.

Waste inspection, although carried out fairly systematically is still, in my opinion, not being carried out on a scale justified by the present size of the Undertaking. The main difficulty is one of sufficient labour. With other more urgent calls on existing labour it is

inevitable that waste inspection should suffer. With the probable substantial completion of the Eastern Area Scheme during the coming year the question of increased labour force will require serious consideration.

GENERAL.

With the increase in size of the Undertaking, problems are arising in connection with the maintenance of a satisfactory organisation for dealing with emergencies which arise outside normal working hours. I think that in the near future consideration will have to be given to a more positive form of organisation than the present system which leaves a great deal to chance.

Also the question of the maintenance of the growing number of small pumping stations will require consideration.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953-4 AND CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1952-53.

	<u>1952-3</u>	<u>1953-4</u>	
<u>Population etc.</u>			
Population (1953 estimated)	35,650	35,320.	
Number of dwelling houses	7,314 +	7,458 +	
<u>Consumers</u>			
Houses supplied direct by R.D.C. + . .	4,117	4,456	
Houses supplied by other Authorities . . +	<u>773</u> <u>4,890</u>	<u>773</u> <u>5,229</u>	
+ Excluding living accommodation owned by Service Departments and supplied direct by them.			
Estimated percentage of population supplied.	76%	78%	
New connections made, excluding new Council houses	125	165	
<u>Water Distributed.</u>			
<u>Source.</u>			
Chippenham Borough:	Yewstock	89,990,000	99,624,000
	Monks Lane	53,843,000	61,691,000
	Copenacre	26,786,000	32,777,000
	Other Places	<u>5,181,000</u>	<u>4,973,000</u>
		175,800,000	199,065,000
Widdonham		102,090,000	89,589,000
Nettleton		14,556,000	9,032,000
Goodshill		7,034,000	1,500,000
Washwells		10,000,000	9,998,000
Hilmarton		1,270,000+	1,270,000+
Foxham		2,390,000	2,140,000

WATER SUPPLIES (WATER DISTRIBUTED CONTINUED) :

Slaughterford	70,000+	70,000+	17
East Tytherton(Wick Hill)	50,000+	50,000+	
Compton Bassett (RAF)	2,624,000	2,719,000	
Yatesbury (RAF)	1,170,000	1,180,000	
Goatacre(Cricklade & Wootton Bassett RDC)	82,000	1,338,000	
Stockley(Calne Boro)	-	442,000	
	317,196,000	319,343,000	galls.

+ estimated consumption.

WATER MAINS.

	<u>1952-3</u>	<u>1953-4</u>
Mileage of mains	125.8	142.1

WATER METERS

In use at end of year	687	752
-----------------------	-----	-----

RAINFALL

April	2.09	2.47
May	4.53	3.09
June	2.21	1.85
July	1.40	2.85
August	6.32	3.24
September	3.05	3.96
October	4.17	2.09
November	3.24	2.60
December	4.97	0.62
January	0.77	1.95
February	2.37	3.58
March	<u>0.81</u>	<u>2.57</u>
	<u>35.93ins.</u>	<u>30.87 ins.</u>

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Mileage of mains</u>	<u>Sources</u>
Biddestone	4.9	Chippenham Boro Slaughterford
Box	13.0	Widdenham Washwells
Bremhill	6.1	Chippenham Boro Wick Hill Foxham.

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES (CONTINUED)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Mileage of mains</u>	<u>Sources.</u>
Calne Without	4.5	Calne Boro.
Castle Combe	4.6	Chippenham Boro.
Cherhill	3.1	Air Ministry Chippenham Boro.
Chippenham Without	1.2	Chippenham Boro.
Christian Malford	4.6	ditto
Colerne	6.5	Widdenham
Compton Bassett	3.2	Air Ministry
Corsham	21.7	Chippenham Boro. Widdenham Goodshill
Grittleton	9.1	Chippenham Boro
Heddington	0.7	ditto
Hilmarton	6.6	Hilmarton Cricklade & Wootton Bassett
Kington Langley	4.3	Chippenham Boro
Kington St. Michael	6.8	ditto
Lacock	6.9	ditto Goodshill
Langley Burrell Wt.	4.8	Chippenham Boro
Nettleton	5.2	Nettleton
North Wraxall	3.9	Widdenham Chippenham Boro.
Pewsham	7.6	ditto
Stanton St. Quinton	2.8	ditto
Sutton Benger	4.4	ditto
Yatton Keynell	5.1	ditto
Chippenham Borough	0.5	-
TOTAL:-	<u>142.1 miles</u>	

NOTE:- The West Gloucestershire Water Company supply the village of Burton in the parish of Nettleton, and Calne Boro. supply Mile Elm in the Parish of Calne Without.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR.

TO:- The Chairman & members of the Calne & Chippenham
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present
a report on the activities of the Public Health Department
during 1953.

A glance at the summary of
visits on page 2 will give an indication to members of the
Council of the variety of work covered by the department.

It will be seen that greater
emphasis was given to housing work and I am pleased to record
that it was possible for the Council to issue demolition orders
on a limited number of very sub-standard cottages; thus a start
has been made to eradicate unfit houses in the Council's district.
In 1954 it may be possible to extend the work and to deal with
more of this slum property.

Your officers have worked with
some success, persuading owners of house property to connect
to the Council's public water mains or sewers and good progress
has been made in this direction. It is pleasing to report on
the ready response of property owners in Castle Combe to connect
their houses to the new public sewer, although it will not be
possible to operate this sewerage scheme until April or May, 1954.

The detailed work of the
department is set out under its respective headings in the
body of this report.

May I again express my thanks
to Dr. Broomhead, Medical Officer of Health, for his advice
and co-operation.

I would also like to thank
members of the Council for their support and encouragement in
this vital work of environmental hygiene.

In conclusion I wish to
acknowledge the loyal support given to me by the other officers
and staff of the department.

Yours obediently,

H.J. TAYLOR.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS in 1953.

20

<u>General Sanitation.</u>	1952	
Water supply	327	(142)
Drainage	523	322
Stables & Piggeries	19	13
Offensive Trades	-	-
Fried Fish Shops	12	8
Licensed Premises	40	29
Tents, Vans, Sheds	223	192
Factories - Power	57	34
Factories - No Power	31	10
Workplaces	-	3
Outworkers	17	16
Bakehouses	38	50
Public Conveniences	45	44
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	3	2
Refuse Collection	175	173
Refuse Disposal	164	161
Rats & Mice	15	23
Atmospheric Pollution	23	4
Schools	-	7
Shops, Food	18	21
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	147	125
Nuisances	208	360
Water Samples	250	242
Sanitary Survey	68	43
Sewage Samples	35	-

Housing.

Under Public Health Acts:-		
No. of Houses inspected	36	54
Visits paid to above houses.	84	153
Under Housing Acts:-		
No. of houses inspected	70	240
Visits paid to above houses	335	208
Overcrowding:-		
No. of houses inspected.	5	10
Visits paid to above houses	8	9
Filthy or Verminous Premises:-		
No. of houses inspected	6	14
Visits paid to above houses	11	37
Miscellaneous housing visits	61	106

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	66	50
Visits re disinfection	31	27
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	41	53
Food Poisoning Inquiries	4	-

Meat & Food Inspection.

Inspection of Meat		
Visits to Slaughterhouse	12	8
Visits to Shops and Stalls	-	2
Visits to Other Premises.	3	1

Visits to:-

Butchers	38	21
Fishmongers & Poulterers	5	6
Grocers	28	20
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	1	4
Dairies & Milk Distributors	32	42
Dairies & Milk Shops	7	-
Ice Cream Premises	113	42
Food Preparing Premises	35	49

(1952)

Market Stalls	2	-
Restaurants and Cafes	60	2
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	21	-
Canteens	3	1

Visits in connection with sampling.

Milk bacteriological	25	55
Milk, Biological (T.T.)	17	-
Ice Cream	151	123
Food & Drugs Samples	-	-
Miscellaneous Food Visits	3	3

3752

3364

DRAINAGE

Nuisances

Many complaints of nuisances were received and dealt with. In some cases it was possible to secure complete abatement of such nuisances, whilst in others it was only possible to abate them temporarily.

Connections to Sewer.

Corsham, Neston, Westwells, Moor Green and Elly Green.

During the year the Council approved sewer extensions at Baker's Corner and Elly Green to enable properties in these areas to be provided with modern sanitary facilities.

The extension at Baker's Corner was completed during the year but that at Elly Green was still under construction at the end of December. A number of owners have connected to this new sewer and it is anticipated that all 13 houses will be connected early in 1954.

Castle Combe.

With the advent of the construction of the new sewer in Castle Combe, a number of property owners prepared schemes for the linking up of their property and at the end of the year 13 houses were connected.

Sanitary Survey of Houses in the Mount Pleasant, Hardenhuish Lane and Malmesbury Road areas of Chippenham Without and Langley Burrell Without.

Following receipt of complaints of ditches being fouled by house drainage, a survey of sanitary facilities at properties in these areas was carried out and the undermentioned details obtained

No. of Properties	53
No. of Occupiers	167

<u>Drainage by septic tank, with effluent to ditches.</u>	<u>Sealed Cesspools</u>	<u>Overflowing Cesspools</u>	<u>No Drain- age Facilit- ies.</u>
---	-----------------------------	----------------------------------	--

37

2

1

13

No. of W.C.'s

No. of E.C.'s.

41

12

Houses with Baths.

39

After the Council had given consideration to this report and a report from Dr. Broomhead on the effect of this drainage might have on the Chippenham Water Supply, the Council's Engineer was instructed to prepare a sewerage scheme for the area in consultation with the Engineer to the Borough of Chippenham.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT.

Check samples of effluents from the Council's main sewage works, and from smaller disposal plants at Council house sites, have been taken, and with the exception of the samples taken from the disposal works to the Ford Council houses, all other samples have been satisfactory. The Council's Engineer is investigating the cause of the unsatisfactory samples from Ford with a view to improving the effluent.

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Yatesbury	1	
Ford		2
Colerne	1	
Corsham	1	
Lacock	1	
Yatton Keynell	1	
	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Box - 1

Corsham - 2 Post Office lane and Station Road.

These conveniences have been well maintained by the part-time attendants.

Improvements were carried out to the gentlemen's convenience at Station Road, Corsham. A new flushing cistern was provided to the urinal and a new flat concrete roof constructed.

Much wilful damage is still occasioned to the slot machines on the doors of the closets.

Sites for public conveniences at Colerne and Castle Combe are still required.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

No alterations in the collections of household refuse were made during the year.

The two 10-cubic yard and one 7-cubic yard Bedford refuse vehicles were used for this purpose and with regular maintenance have proved very reliable vehicles. The large increase in the quantity of refuse collected due to the increased number of houses and additional demands from the Royal Air Force Station, Colerne has strained the present organisation considerably and the Council will have to consider purchasing another vehicle during 1954 in order to maintain the present service.

The labour employed includes one working foreman, 3 Loader/Drivers, 4 loaders and two tip attendants. No increased labour has been employed although your commitments have increased.

Only six tips are now available for use and the one at Burton is nearly full. The other tips are situated at Biddestone, Gastard, Nethermore, Spirthill and Sutton Benger. For more than six months the refuse tip at Biddestone was on fire and the tip could not be used. No damage has been caused to the surrounding land and the fire has been held in check.

Negotiations have been proceeding between Miss Talbot, Messrs. Hill & Sons and the Council concerning the use of the sand and gravel pit at Inwood, Lacock, as a future refuse tip, and it is possible that this area will be available to the Council early in 1954.

The cost of maintaining this service has remained very constant despite the increase in wages etc.

During September the Council took delivery of a Muleadozer to be used at the refuse tips for levelling the refuse and covering with surplus soil. In the short time it has been in use it has proved a very useful machine.

Total mileage, 3 vehicles	24553
Petrol	2950 gallons
Oil	264 pints
Miles per gallon	8.3

Refuse costs.

Total costs	£5,134	(£5,069)
Collection.	£4,106	(3, 896)
Disposal	£1,028	(1, 173)

Per thousand population.

Collection	£115. 3. 4	(£109. 15. 0)
Disposal	£ 28. 16. 7	(£33. 0. 10)
	£143. 19. 11	(£142. 15. 10)

Per ton of Refuse

1381 loads, approx.	3 tons. 12 cwts. 3 qrs.	4765 tons
274 " "	2 tons. 6 cwts. 1 qr.	633 tons
		5661 tons

= 18/1.65d per ton (18/3.3d)

Note:- 1952 figures in brackets.

Per Head of Population

Collection	2/3.64d	(2/2.228d)
Disposal	6.92d	(7.789d)
	2/10.156	(2/10.017d)

SUPPLY OF DUSTBINS.

In order to ensure that certain houses were provided with proper covered impervious refuse bins, 66 informal notices were served on householders to provide such containers and by the end of the year 23 notices had been complied with. 69 dustbins were sold from stock. Far too many houses are without proper receptacles for refuse, but the present Public Health Legislation concerning the provision of such containers does not help to speedily remedy the position.

Litter Baskets.

18 litter baskets have now been provided throughout the district, additional baskets having been fixed at Kington Langley and North Wraxall.

These are serving a useful purpose, but it is disappointing to have to report that many of these baskets are damaged by hooligans.

SALVAGE.

In Corsham and Box, waste paper is salvaged every Tuesday by a special collection in order to relieve the refuse collectors of this responsibility on their busiest day of the week. Throughout the remainder of the district such material is collected and carried in the trailers attached to the refuse vehicles. This separate collection of waste paper has two advantages, it saves tipping space and more important still, the separation of this material from the household refuse greatly reduces the risk of fire at the refuse tips.

The labour devoted to this work, in my opinion, is not wasted, although the revenue and expenditure figures show a loss of approximately £520. If this service were curtailed it would not be possible to reduce the number of men employed as a certain amount of surplus labour must be carried to meet the loss of working time occasioned by holidays and sickness.

The quantity of waste paper collected exceeded that of last year by 18½ tons.

The price offered for waste paper has varied from £4.10.0 to £5.10.0 per ton. Cardboard is worth £7 per ton and every effort is made to salvage as much of this material as possible. These materials are baled by one man who is paid 2/3d. and 2/- respectively for each cwt. of material baled.

If the price offered for waste paper continues to rise, and there is every indication that it will, the loss on this service next year should be reduced still further.

Collection	Cwts.	£.	s.	d.
January	221½	51	7	11
February	225½	51	17	1
March	241½	54	5	7
April	303	68	3	6
May	216	48	11	11
June	219¾	49	8	10
July	88	19	16	0
August	266½	59	5	10
September	398	87	17	1
October	331½	81	2	3
November	419½	112	0	3
December	140½	38	10	8
	<hr/> 3070	<hr/> 722.	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 11
	(2703)	(1216.	1.	0)

Salvage of Scrap Metal.

Just over 58 tons of tins etc. were salvaged and sold for £29. 0. 6. In addition to this sum a subsidy of £4.18.0 per ton was received from the London and Southern Counties Joint Committee, via Coopers (Metals) Ltd., Swindon, to the end of October. The total sum received for this material was therefore £220.

Salvage of Scrap Metal (continued)

After 31st. October the dealer receiving these materials terminated his contract with the Council and it was necessary to find another outlet. A local dealer agreed to collect from our refuse tips and make a payment of 10/- per ton. I have also managed to secure a reduced subsidy of £3 per ton for this material.

Kitchen Waste.

This is collected privately in parts of the Council's district, including Box, Corsham and Lacock.

Covered galvanised storage bins are provided by the collectors and no complaints of nuisances have been received of the method of storage and collection.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.Public Health Act, 1936 Section 107

There are no offensive trade establishments as defined by Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, within the area of the Council.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

The four fish shops have been visited 12 times during the year and improvements to two premises have been effected.

Situation of Fish Shops.

Box	2
Colerne	1
Corsham	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 Section 269MOVEABLE DWELLINGSLicences authorising persons to erect or station and use Moveable Dwellings.

It is the Council's policy to licence the stationing and occupation of individual caravans, rather than to licence sites upon which a number of caravans may be stationed. The number of such moveable dwellings licensed has increased from 52 to 62, despite an improvement in the housing position, with more houses to let or for sale.

One applicant was refused a licence to occupy a caravan at Hilmarton.

Statutory action was recommended against an occupier of a caravan at Yatesbury for permitting overcrowding and for stationing and occupying this dwelling without a licence. He left the district before official action was necessary.

Parishes in which moveable dwellings are situated.

Box	8	Pewsham	2
Bremhill	2	Sta nton St.	
Cherhill	5	Quinton.	3
Chippenham Wt	7	Sutton Benger	3
Christian Malford	2	Yatton Keynell	<u>1</u>
Colerne	1		
Compton Bassett	1	Total:-	<u>62</u>
Corsham	16		
Hilmarton	7		
Kington Langley	1		
Kington St. Michael	2		
Lacock	1		

Filthy and Verminous Premises or Articles and Verminous Persons.

Several instances of verminous premises have come to the notice of the department and the appropriate treatments have been given.

Fortunately such cases are very few, although from time to time a serious infestation comes to our notice, demanding special consideration.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938 Sections 13, 14 & 15.

Byelaws re handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air, (made under Sec. 15 Food & Drugs Act, 1938)

I set out below a table indicating the number of food premises, by type of business, established in the area. I cannot claim that this list is entirely accurate, but it will give a very good indication of the variety and number of such businesses in your area.

General Stores	46
Grocers	22
Bakers	11
Butchers	10
Sweet Shops	8
Fish & Fruit	4
Fish & Chips	4
Cafes	13
Chemists	4
Travelling Snacks	2

The above list does not include the large number of premises licensed by the Ministry of Food as Catering Establishments, neither does it contain details of dairies and licensed premises; the numbers of such establishments are recorded elsewhere in this report.

Regular inspections of food premises have been carried out and where conditions were found which infringed the Council's Food Byelaws, informal notices were issued requesting compliance with these Byelaws. The Council did not initiate any legal proceedings for infringement of the byelaws during the year.

In the larger County Boroughs and Boroughs "Clean Food Campaigns" have been inaugurated and lectures have been given on food hygiene to members of the food trade and much publicity has been given to these activities.

It is very difficult to stimulate any enthusiasm for such lectures in a rural area, where the shops are scattered throughout the various parishes.

I prefer to discuss the requirements of the food legislation with proprietors and staff at their own premises. In this way it is easier to point out infringements and to recommend remedies. I believe the shop owners welcome this personal contact with them and their staffs.

Registration of Premises used in connection with the Manufacture or Sale of Preserved Foods etc.

Six premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 for the preparation, manufacture and sale of sausages and cooked meats. The premises have been well maintained.

The premises are situated at :-

Box	1
Calne Wt	1
Corsham	3
Lacock	1

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938
Schedule of Condemned Foods, 1953.

The undermentioned foodstuffs were condemned during the year:-

<u>Tinned Goods</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Condition.</u>
Luncheon meat	5lbs. 15 oz.	Blown & punctured.
Veal and Ham Loaf	1 " 8 "	ditto
Stewing Steak	5 "	ditto
Meat	1 " 8 "	Blown
Pork Brawn	43 " 8 "	"
ditto	1 " 8 "	Putrefaction.
Jellied Veal	24 "	Blown
Corned Beef	6 " 12 "	Punctured
Steak & Gravy	6 "	Blown
Brisket Beef	7 "	"
Salmon	1 " 15 "	Blown & punctured.
Sardines	4 "	ditto
Soup	1 " 13 "	Blown
Tomatoes	5 " 8 "	Blown & punctured
Plums	3 " 6 "	ditto
Evaporated milk	4 "	ditto
Pineapple slices	12 "	Blown
Cranberries	1 " 14 "	Punctured

Fish

Filleted cod	30 stone	Putrefaction
Smoked haddock	14 lbs.	ditto
Kippers	1 stone	Decomposition
Haddock	1 stone	ditto

Meat & Offal

286 lbs.	Putrefaction
70 lbs	Bone Taint
8 lbs	Skin rash & bruising
5 lbs	Abscess.

Most foodstuffs condemned consist of tinned foods. Requests are received from food traders to examine individual tins and small consignments of tinned food suspected of being unfit for human consumption. All condemned tins are collected and disposed of at the Council's refusetip. Occasionally we are called in to examine larger consignments of food at N.A.A.F.I. premises attached to military establishments. The 30 stone of filleted cod referred to above was examined and condemned at one of these establishments. In this case the condemned food was given to a pig-keeper for pig food on condition that the fish was first adequately sterilised by boiling before being fed to the pigs.

Registration of Premises used in connection with the Manufacture
or Sale of Ice-Cream.

One Ice-Cream factory at Box is still registered for the manufacture of ice-cream by the hot mix method, but during the year production at the factory ceased and supplies were obtained from another factory. The premises were used for the storage of ice-cream in bulk.

Registration of Premises used in connection with the
Manufacture or Sale of Ice Cream. (Continued)

Another factory at Castle Combe has not manufactured ice cream for several years and the registration of these premises has been cancelled.

57 premises have been registered for the storage and sale of ice cream and have been inspected on 94 occasions. In addition, 76 visits have been made in connection with the sampling of ice cream.

Ice-Cream Sampling.

140 samples of ice cream have been taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath. The results were as follows:-

<u>Provisional Grade</u>				
1	11	111	1V	TOTAL
119	16	2	3	140

The Public Health Laboratory Service suggests that 50% of a vendors samples should fall into category 1, 80% into category 1 & 11 no more than 20% into categories 111 & 1V. As at least 96% of the samples taken in this district were placed in categories 1 & 11 these results can be considered as highly satisfactory.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Several new catering establishments were opened during the year and these premises were first inspected before they were recommended for licensing. There are now 120 catering establishments in the Council's district. Improvements at certain existing establishments were obtained, including the provision of new kitchens, larders and water heaters. Two premises were closed by the owners because they could not see their way clear to carry out the extensive requirements considered necessary to bring the property up to satisfactory standards.

LICENSED PREMISES - SANITARY CONDITIONS.

The original survey of licensed premises carried out in 1951 revealed the extent of the sanitary and other facilities available at these premises. Since that date owners of premises have been asked to ensure that the following facilities are available:-

- Adequate sanitary facilities, including drainage.
- " Water supply
- " washing-up facilities
- " cellarage
- " lighting and ventilation.

Much good progress has been obtained in securing these facilities. Major improvements were carried out to licensed premises at Littleton Drew and Nettleton: other improvements were made to premises at Sutton Benger and Yatton Keynell. One licensed house at West Kington was closed as the requirements necessary to bring it to a satisfactory standard were considered uneconomic.

38 inspections of bakehouses were made during the year, in the following parishes:-

Bremhill	2
Castle Combe	2
Cherhill	1
Colerne	1
Corsham	4
Kington Langley	1
Kington St. Michael	1
Sutton Benger	1
	<u>13</u>

These premises were generally satisfactory but representations were made to improve the general conditions at one bakehouse in Cherhill. Improvements to drainage and flour-store and provision of counter show cases were obtained. Other improvements secured include the complete replastering of bakehouse and the provision of bread rails at another. A further bakehouse at Box ceased to operate on the retirement of the owner.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938 Section 57.

Licensing of Slaughter-houses and Knackers' Yards.

The knacker's yard at Heddington was again re-licensed. This was the only license issued as all other slaughterhouses in the district have been closed since 1940.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 Section 3.

No slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

FOOD & DRUGS ACTS, 1938 to 1950.

Registration of Dairies, other than Dairy Farms, and of Distributors.

One new dairy at Lacock has been registered solely for the storage of bottled milk.

32 inspections have been made of Dairies and improvements carried out at two of them.

No. of registered dairies	11
No. of registered distributors	24

The Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 - 53.

No. of dealer's licences to use special designation	7
" " " supplementary	6

The Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-53.

No. of Dealer's licences to use special designation "T.T."	.9
" " " supplementary	.8

Milk Sampling.

Milk samples were submitted for examination as follows:-

Methylene Blue Test (for keeping quality).

<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total.</u>
43 (42)	10 (3)	53 (45)

Phosphatase Test (for efficient pasteurisation).

<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total.</u>
28 (29)	1 (2)	29 (31)

Biological (for presence of tuberculosis)

<u>Passed.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
6 (27)	Nil (1)	6 (28)

Figures in brackets are for 1952.

The percentage of samples failing to pass the methylene blue test (23%) is very disappointing, and is higher than for 1952 (16%)

The results of these samples are forwarded to the Milk Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries for any action considered necessary.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1953.

1. No. of new houses and flats completed during the year.
 - (a) by local authority 150
 - (b) by private enterprise 41
2. Inspection of dwellings during the year.
 1. Inspected for Housing Defects under P.H. Acts 36
 2. " " " Hsg. " 70
 3. Number of dwellings found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation . . 16
 4. Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 53
3. Remedy of Defects by Informal Action.

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action (not"fit in all respects") 12

Number of dwellings demolished in consequence of informal action 2
4. Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health Act and Housing Acts.)
 - A. Proceedings under Sections 9,10 & 16 Housing Act, 1936
 1. No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 3
 2. No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notice.
 - a. By owners. 2
 - b. By local authority in default of owners -
 - B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
 1. No. of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served. -
 2. No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices -
 - a. By owners. -
 - b. By local authority in default of owners -
 - C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

4(C) continued.

1. No. of demolition orders made.	4
2. No. of houses demolished as a result of demolition Orders.	2
3. No. of undertakings accepted.	9
4. No. of undertakings completed	5

D.Proceedings under Sections 25 & 26 Housing Act, 1936.

1. No. of houses under which demolition orders were made	-
2. No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.	-

E.Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936.

1. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made.	-
2. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled as result of premises having been made fit	-

5. Housing Act, 1936 Pt. IV Overcrowding.

1. No. of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of the year	Not Known.
2. No. of cases discovered during the year	5
3. No. of cases abated during the year	3
4. No. of cases investigated.	5
5. No. of visits made.	8

The Housing Statistics preceding these comments summarise the housing activities of the department.

I have been able to represent to the Council a limited number of houses considered unfit for occupation and not capable of repair at a reasonable cost. In view of the reduction in the number of persons applying for housing accommodation it should be possible to increase the number of properties represented to the Council.

Many improvements have been secured to existing cottage property as a result of inform-al action following the receipt of complaints of defects.

HOUSING ACT, 1949 IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

<u>Apps. dealt with by R.D.C.</u>					<u>Apps. submitted to Ministry Regional Office.</u>		
Recd.	Approved	Rejected	Under Cons.	No. Sent.	No. Approved	No. Rejtd.	Under Cons.
14	13	1	-	13	8	-	5

The provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, concerning Improvement Grants is becoming more widely known by property owners and many enquiries about such grants are received in the department. I have prepared for the use of house owners a Memorandum on these Grants which explains in some detail how an owner should proceed to obtain a grant.

During the year 14 applications for these grants were received, 13 were approved by the Council and referred to the Ministry of Housing & Local Govt. 8 of these applications received the approval of the Ministry, whilst 5 are still under consideration.

I feel that if the procedure for obtaining these grants were simplified and more elasticity allowed in the standard of accommodation to be obtained, then this useful piece of

housing legislation would have more appeal to house owners.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 Part IV Overcrowding.

The actual state of over-crowding in the Council's district is unknown, as no survey to ascertain these details has been made.

From time to time overcrowded conditions are reported and steps are taken to abate such overcrowding.

SHOPS ACT, 1950 SECTION 38.

Arrangements for Health & Comfort of Shop Workers.

18 inspections have been made of shops to ascertain whether adequate sanitary facilities have been provided for the needs of the employees and to ensure that these shops have been provided with satisfactory means of light and ventilation.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council still employ a full-time Rodent Officer, and the details contained in the statistics which are printed following these remarks reflect on the useful work this officer is doing in rat destruction.

The extent of rat infestation in this area is astonishing and only the continued systematic destruction of these vermin can hold this menace in check.

Regular surveys of property and land are carried out and treatment given when infestations are found. A charge is made for such service and in 1953, £24 was reclaimed from property owners for treatments carried out by the Rodent Officer.

Close and regular checks have been kept on the Council's various refuse tips and the degree of rat infestation has been reduced considerably by repeated treatments. The Gastard Tip has had special attention because of repeated re-infestations after very successful treatment. I feel confident now that the situation at this Tip is well in hand.

The Council's sewers and sewage works have been inspected and "test baited" and found remarkably free from infestations.

I regret that pressure of other work does not allow much time for surveys of farm property, for I am convinced that there is a large rat population on farms. I know that the Pests Section of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries has contracts for rat extermination at some of these farms, but from information available to me, such contracts only cover a small proportion of the 500 or more farms in the rural district.

The table showing details of the availability of water in each parish has been revised to include new connections and additional houses built during the year.

<u>Parish.</u>	Total Houses	+ Estimated Population	Direct to Houses.	By Standpipes.
Biddestone.	164	656	74	45
Box	1076	4244	533	285
Bremhill	265	1056	92	15
Calne Wt.	441	1760	68	15
Castle Combe	147	536	58	76
Cherhill	170	676	13	28
Chippenham Wt.	80	304	27	14
Christian Malford	158	584	54	66
Colerne	374	1496	152	188
Compton Bassett	109	436	43	-
Corsham	2307	9084	1980	-
Grittleton	146	580	75	33
Heddington	93	372	12	-
Hilmarton	213	848	92	-
Kington Langley	195	752	154	-
Kington St. Michael	145	572	62	62
Lacock	391	1560	180	106
Langley Burrell Wt.	129	512	80	-
Nettleton	178	688	72	56
North Wraxall	113	452	40	22
Pewsham	175	700	52	-
Stanton St. Quinton	65	260	35	3
Sutton Bengier	219	876	53	95
Yatton Keynell.	142	568	39	69

+ This column excludes Service Personnel.

Water samples.

Regular samples are taken of the water supplied to consumers throughout the rural district and submitted to the Salisbury Pathological Laboratory for bacteriological examination. If any of such samples fail to pass the required tests the Council's Engineer is informed and he immediately arranges for a special investigation to ascertain the reason for the unsatisfactory report. Fortunately most of the water supplied by the Council is chlorinated at source and by increasing the dosage of chlorine a suspected supply can soon be made fit for drinking purposes.

Water Supplies - Analysis of Results.

<u>Source of water</u>	<u>Fit.</u>	<u>Suspect.</u>	<u>Unfit.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Widdenham.	36	3	1	40
West Glos. Supply	5			5
Regional Supply (Chippenham Boro)	28			28
Foxham	2	4	2	8
Compton Bassett (R.A.F. Source)	8			8
Wick Hill (unchlor. springs)		2	1	3
Washwells, Box	13	4		17
Calne Borough	4			4
Hilmarton	8	3		11
Nettleton	13			13
Goodshill	5			5
Slaughterford springs	2	2		4
Samples from private supplies	16	33	36	85
Compton Bassett Water Coy.	7	1	1	9
Cherhill (Blackfords)	4			4
Wootton Bassett R.D.C.	6			6
Yatesbury (R.A.F. Source)	8			8
	165	52	41	258

25 samples were submitted for chemical analysis.

WATER SUPPLIES (CONTINUED)

A survey was made of the existing water supply to properties in Yatesbury and the following information was obtained:-

No. of premises with water laid inside premises . .	11
Houses with water supply within 100 ft. of house. .	15
No. of houses with water supply over 100 ft. from house . . .	13
No. of houses with satisfactory private supply. .	12
No. of houses with an unsatisfactory supply . .	3

The owners of houses whose water supply is more than 100 ft. away have been requested to provide a supply within the curtilage of the property and in six instances the necessary supply has been afforded. In seven other cases a supply has not been provided but the owners have given an assurance that water will be made available in the near future, and as this was supported by the owners' solicitors, the Statutory Notices authorised by the Council have not been served.

A similar survey has been carried out in the parish of Compton Bassett where a new water main has been laid. Informal Notices have been served on owners of all properties without a satisfactory water supply and as a result, 17 properties have been connected to the main.

As soon as the Eastern Area Water Scheme is in operation, a similar survey will be made of existing water supplies to ascertain whether the properties have a satisfactory supply.

OUTWORKERS.Factories Act, 1937, Section 110.

There are now 96 outworkers registered with the Council and residing in the following parishes:-

Corsham	79
Lacock	1
Kington St. Michael	1
Castle Combe	1
Box	11
Biddestone	2
Yatton Keynell	1
	<u>96</u>

17 visits have been made to Outworkers' living accommodation and conditions at each home have been considered satisfactory.

The prescribed lists of outworkers supplied by the occupiers of factories in February and August of each year, are carefully checked and the Sanitary Inspectors of other Councils are notified of any outworkers residing in their districts, and employed by occupiers of factories in the Council's district.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
 REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1953.

30

	L.A.	Dwellg Hses.	Agri cultrl	All other inc. Busns & Industrial	TOTAL
1. Total No. of properties in L.A. district.	40	8053	507	274	8874
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. in 1953 as a result of -					
a notification	6	47	-	5	58
b survey or otherwise.	9	1299	36	244	1588
3. No. of properties inspected (see Sec.11) which were found to be infested by rats.					
Major	1	2	-	-	3
Minor	13	42	3	4	62
4. No. of properties inspected (see Sec.11) which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	4	-	2	6
5. No. of infested properties (see Secs. 3 & 4) treated by L.A.	14	43	3	6	66
6. No. of notices served under Sec. 4					
(1) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(2) structural works (ie proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
7. No. of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following the issue of a notice under Section 4	-	-	-	-	-
8. Legal Proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-
9. No. of "block" control schemes carried out.	-	-	-	-	-

PARISH	Private Premises Inspected.	Treat- ments carr. out.	Buss. prem. insptd.	T'mnts carr. out.	C'cl Hse Inspns.	T'mnts carr. out.
Biddestone	69	8	8	-	20	-
Bremhill	31	-	13	1	2	-
Calne Wt	51	4	5	1	4	-
Cherhill	39	4	8	1	16	1
Castle Combe	58	-	12	-	-	-
Chippenham Wt.	32	4	6	-	4	-
Christian Malford	100	3	7	-	-	-
Colerne	47	-	12	-	12	-
Compton Bassett	29	5	7	-	6	-
Corsham	249	31	111	20	47	5
Grittleton	40	2	5	-	-	-
Heddington	50	3	4	-	12	3
Hilmarton	34	1	7	2	26	5
Kington Langley	31	1	4	-	-	-
Kington St.Michael	20	-	8	-	-	-
Lacock	59	7	10	-	26	4
Langley Burrell Wt.	28	-	1	-	-	-
Nettleton.	37	-	-	-	-	-
North Wraxall.	33	1	2	-	-	-
Pewsham.	30	2	6	-	-	-
Stanton St.Quinton.	26	-	7	-	-	-
Sutton Benger.	33	7	12	2	4	-
Yatton Keynell.	38	-	4	-	6	-
Box.	121	26	36	4	24	1
TOTAL:-	1213	108	296	31	209	19

Refuse Tips etc.Banks, Hedgerows, Ditches

	<u>Inspns.</u>	<u>T'mnts.</u>
Biddestone	35	14
Chequers	1	-
Gastard	49	19
Sutton Benger	27	12
North Wraxall	4	-
Burton	18	9
Spirthill	13	7
Nethermore	20	12

Inspns.T'mnts.

17

7

Agricultural properties.Inspns.T'mnts.

14

1

Box sewer beds	23	13
Colerne Sewage Wks.	2	-
Corsham " "	5	-
Rudloe Paper Depot	-	-
Woodlands Paper "	13	1
TOTAL:-	210	87.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	<u>No. on Register.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
1. Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s.	12	31	-
2. Factories not inc- luded in (1) in which Sec.7 is en- forced by L.A.	83	57	5
TOTAL:-	<u>95</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>5</u>

2. Number of cases in which defects were found.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M.Inspr.</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspr.</u>
Want of cleanliness (sec.1.)	2	2		
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u> (Sec.7)				
(a) insufficient	3	3		
(b) unsuitable or defective	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>2</u>
TOTAL:-	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>2</u>

from 88 to 95.

Some 88 inspections have been made to ensure that these premises comply with the health provisions of the Factory Acts. It was only necessary to require improvements at six factories and in every case the defects were remedied.

